

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are now pending in this application. Claim 10 is a newly submitted dependent claim, depending from independent claim 8.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Gilmour* (US 4,987,563) and *Johnson* (US 4,333,0876), taken individually.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Wright et al.* (US 5,667,373).

Claims 1-6 are noted to be allowed.

Considering the references being relied upon, *Gilmour* is directed to a synthetic aperture sonar system including an array of active elements extending along a line and including an end element (a) which is displaced from the remainder of the elements (b) and (c ... f) as shown in Figures 10 and 11. Figures 5 and 6 respectively disclose connected and disconnected fully populated sections of elements.

The *Johnson* reference discloses an array of elements in Figures 4, 5 and 8 of a synthetic aperture system including a plurality of elements extending along a line and where the plurality of elements include an end element which is displaced from the remainder of the elements by a gap, thereby defining a non-fully populated section of elements.

With respect to the *Wright et al.* reference, the Examiner is relying on the configuration of Figure 4(a) where a plurality of elements XDCR 1 to XDCR N

consists of a line array of elements, one half of which generates a beam (a) on one side of the scan center line, with the other half generating a beam (b) on the opposite side of the center line. The two elements XDCR 1 and XDCR 2 comprise the first two elements of the first section, and elements XDCR J and XDCR N comprise the first and last elements of the second section. It should be noted, however, the broken vertical lines indicate that both sections are fully populated element sections without any element gaps in either element section. There is no teaching or suggestion in the specification of *Wright et al.* that the second is a non-fully populated section of elements. It is submitted that the depiction of elements in Figure 4(a) is merely a drafting convention and that fully populated element sections are, in fact, meant to be shown.

Claim 7 is now amended to recite a plurality of active elements extending along a line, and wherein the plurality of active elements include first and second connected sections of elements, and wherein the first section is a fully populated section of elements, and the second section is a non-fully populated section of elements, the second section including an end element which is displaced from the remainder of the elements in the second section by a gap of at least one element.

Claim 8 is now amended to recite an array of first and second sections of active elements, wherein the first section comprises a fully populated section including a plurality of mutually adjacent elements and wherein the second

section contacts the first section and comprises a non-fully populated section including first and second elements separated by a gap of one or more elements.

New dependent claim 10 specifies that the first element of the second section comprises the first numbered elements in the second section, and the second element comprises the last numbered element therein.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 7 and 8 as now amended are not anticipated by any of the references cited and relied upon, taken either singly or in combination and are, therefore, are directed to claims which are in condition for allowance. Claims 9 and 10 become allowable by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

Accordingly, all of the claims now present in the application are deemed to be in condition for allowance and therefore further and favorable action is requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact William L. Gates (Reg. No. 20,848) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/695,774
Attorney Docket No. 1215-0497P(000419-078)

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)